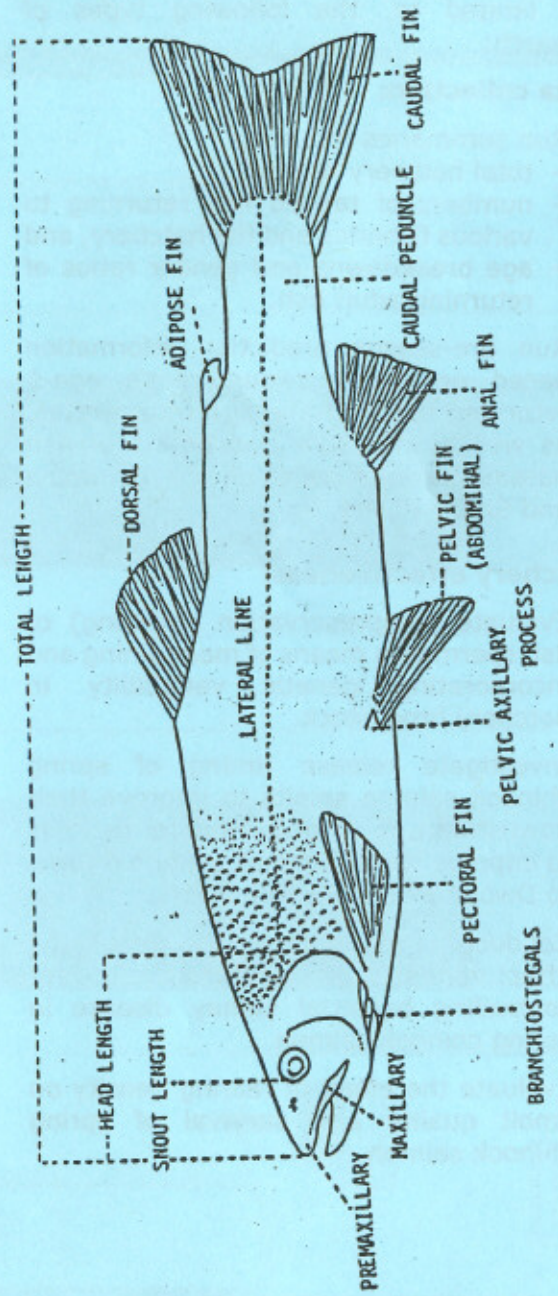
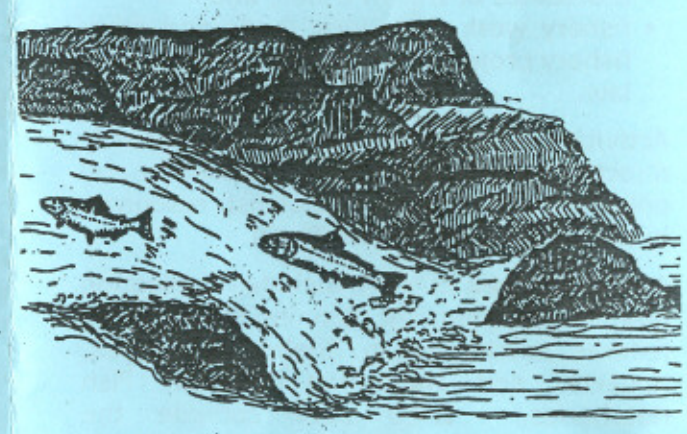


IDAHO FISHERY RESOURCE OFFICE



U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Idaho Fishery Resource Office (IFRO)

The IFRO was originally established as Dworshak Fisheries Assistance Office in 1981 and became fully operational in 1982. The name change to Idaho Fishery Resource Office occurred in 1990 to better reflect the office's responsibility and function.

IFRO is located on the grounds of Dworshak National Fish Hatchery, Ahsahka, Idaho. This facility is located approximately 40 miles upstream of the Snake-Clearwater River confluence at Lewiston, Idaho.

The primary goal of IFRO is to assist in management and evaluation of fishery resources which relate to federal issues, such as:

- fishery resources of national significance,
- fishery mitigation for federal projects,
- assistance of Indian tribes, and
- fishery work on federal lands and other fishery projects as called for under federal law.

Activities under these goals are primarily directed toward protection, restoration and enhancement of anadromous fish resources in the Lower Snake River Basin.

A primary area of work includes evaluation and fish management planning for the three federal hatcheries in Idaho: Dworshak, Kooskia, and Hagerman National Fish Hatcheries. IFRO staff compile the information base to assess how each of these three hatchery facilities are meeting their established mitigation goals.

The IFRO also helps set up and design studies to evaluate hatchery effectiveness and various management scenarios. IFRO works closely with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, to evaluate various fish management programs in Idaho.

IFRO Activities

Activities of IFRO staff may include, but are not limited to, the following types of research:

Data collection:

- Run summaries including:
  - total hatchery returns,
  - numbers of tagged fish returning to various fisheries and the hatchery, and
  - age breakdowns and gender ratios of returning adult fish.
- Run pre-season prediction information based on the previous year's age-1 returning fish and average return rates, as well as numbers and timing of fish passing various dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

Hatchery effectiveness:

- Evaluate cryopreservation (freezing) of fish sperm as a means of maintaining and incorporating genetic variablility in hatchery broodstock.
- Investigate release timing of spring chinook salmon smolts to improve their downstream migration. Explore methods to improve spring chinook salmon returns to Dworshak and Kooskia NFHs.
- Conduct experiments to test the effectiveness of erythromycin for controlling bacterial kidney disease in spring chinook salmon.
- Evaluate the effect of rearing density on smolt quality and survival of spring chinook salmon.

Field work:

- Collect fish from tributaries of the Clearwater River to determine the presence and type of any diseases, species affected, and extent of disease contamination among natural stocks.
- Collect data on juvenile salmonids in streams where previous releases of salmonids have occurred.
- Locate fall chinook spawning sites on the Snake River below Hells Canyon Dam to determine what habitat type is preferred.
- Monitor the outmigration timing of juvenile fall chinook and this relationship to water discharge in the Snake River.
- Observe juvenile and adult salmonid abundance and migration timing in Pete King and Clear Creeks to determine carrying capacity of the streams and habitat preferences.
- Predict and document, in a long-term study, the effects of climate change on mountain whitefish populations in White Sand Creek and the upper Lochsa River drainage.

Technical support:

- Represent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in many technical advisory committees and study teams throughout the Northwest.
- Provide coordination between outside agencies and divisions conducting various projects at Dworshak National Fish Hatchery.